

NOTICES.

DEATH.

On May 14th, suddenly, at Selangor, Federated Malay States, Isabel (nee Sergeant), wife of Captain Dennison Adam.

BIRTH.

At Thorneloe House, Worcester, on August 7th, 1903, the wife of J. P. Cavenagh, L.R.C.P., of a daughter.
At Williton, Somerset, on April 28th, the wife of the Rev. P. Tripp, of a son (Phillip Arthur Howard).

HOUSE OF EDUCATION BADGES.

It has been proposed to alter the existing form of the badge, *not* its design. It is proposed that a smaller badge, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, made of open enamel work in green, brown and white would be more wearable night and day, and more distinctive, as the present resembles in form the badges of other associations. This change would, however, involve an initial expense which the present funds of the Association would not stand, though it is not believed that the ultimate cost of each badge would exceed 4s. 6d. The Editor would be glad to receive names of those who would order new badges if the work can be set in hand.

STUDENTS' AMBLESIDE CONFERENCE.

A large meeting of students was held early in May to discuss the future Conference arrangements. By the great kindness of Miss Mason, we may look forward to a biennial meeting: so the prospective programme for next Spring is as follows—always liable to such alterations as Miss Mason or the Committee shall see fit to make.

Monday, April 11.—Assemble at Ambleside.

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Tuesday, April 12.—Papers. Discussion on Musical Teaching.
Wednesday, April 13.—Papers. Discussion on Teaching of Mathematics. Return of present Students.

Thursday, April 14.—Criticism Lessons by present Students, if permitted, on subjects asked for previously by ex-Students.

Friday, April 15.—Criticism Lessons by ex-Students on subjects previously requested by themselves or present Students.

Saturday.—Out-door Nature Rambles.

Sunday.—If circumstances permit, we shall hope to enjoy Miss Mason's more than kind welcome to feel once more members of the house for a Scale How Sunday.

At the meeting it was strongly urged that it would be better for the dignity and well-being of the ex-students, and involve less work on the Executive Committee, if the students find their own lodgings, making up parties of from four to six. For while the arrangements made for them before were most excellent, the numbers had an unavoidable tendency to make the gathering more of a picnic party and less of a serious undertaking.

The committee:—

Miss Allen,

Miss Hirtzel,

Miss Rankin,

Miss W. Kitching,

Miss E. Wilkinson,

Miss E. A. Parish,

Miss H. Wix,

Miss R. A. Pennethorne,

will be glad to receive any suggestions as to papers, subjects of discussion, etc.; and it is especially requested that these shall all reach the Editor, Miss Pennethorne, not later than November 30th. After Christmas a notice shall be inserted, asking for names of those who purpose attending.

NATURE NOTES.

RICHMOND AND TWICKENHAM NATURE RAMBLES.

Under the guidance of Miss Taylor the children belonging to this club have made some most interesting excursions this summer. All students whose children attend such rambles

are asked to kindly send notices of them to "L'Umile Pianta," that we may have some account of the Nature Work we are all doing.

MAY. FIRST RAMBLE.—Sunbury Water Meadows. Principal finds: three species of fresh water snail, water buttercup, meadow flowers, saxifrage, etc.

LECTURE.—On newts, water snails, caddis worms, etc.

SECOND RAMBLE.—Richmond Old Deer Park. Principal finds: sticklebacks, water plants, early June flowers.

THIRD RAMBLE.—Whitton Park. Chief finds: an elephant hawk moth, several sedges, three nerved sandwort, etc., and many new flowers.

FOURTH RAMBLE.—Egham and Runneymeade. Chief finds: several crested newts, water beetles, water boatmen, water lilies, great flowering rush, water persicaria, and many meadow flowers, yellow rattle, sweet wood-ruff, celery-leaved ranunculus, etc.

FIFTH RAMBLE.—Richmond Park and the ponds near the Ham Gate. Particulars of this were not yet obtainable when we went to press.

READING SOCIETY.

Does this society exist or no?

No one is asked or required to read any one particular book; we have abandoned that plan, as it was a stumbling-block in the way of would-be members. You are only asked to send a post card for every number describing, or if possible, giving an extract from, some book of general interest you have lately read.

How many members have done that this term? Not one. Comment is needless. Any hints as to the better working of the society would be gratefully received, but it shall not lapse without a protest. It *cannot* be that we none of us read; can it be that we are too indifferent to help, or learn from, each other?

BOOKS TO READ.

"The Autobiography of Herbert Spencer."

A deliberate and most interesting study of the genesis and growth of an abnormal character. The two great volumes are invaluable for those who cannot read all Spencer's works, but do want to know what he effected in his life-time. It is also of interest to discover that the author of "Education" had a very practical knowledge of school-mastering.

"The Foundations of Modern Europe," E. Reich.

Brilliant essays on the Napoleonic period, &c.; not being from an English point of view are they are the more enlightening. There are some most valuable comments on the relations of great men to their times.

"The House of Quiet."

Very beautiful studies in the workings of a man's mind when the ordinary business of life had, perforce, to be put aside. There are some very interesting digressions, especially one on modern education.

The next issue of L'Umile Pianta will be at the close of the Autumn term. All communications should be forwarded to the Editor,

R. A. PENNETHORNE,
Thames Cottages,
Sunbury,

not later than November 5th.

Papers are asked for on these subjects:—

"Treats and Punishments."

"The Relations between Environment and Character."

"How to Make a Model of the Tabernacle."